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January 8, 2010

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**"When I supported the creation of the Coastal Impact Assistance Program in 2005, our goal was to provide a steady influx of federal dollars to boost critical coastal restoration projects throughout south Louisiana," said Rep. Melancon. "This investment in rebuilding the marsh in Plaquemines Parish is exactly the kind of federal, state and local partnership we hoped to foster. Working together, we will stem the tide of coastal erosion in Louisiana and rebuild the land that has been lost."**

**"We're excited about this much needed project, it goes hand-in-hand with the Plaquemines Parish Coastal Plan," said Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser. "We must build back our wetlands and pump river sediment to build elevation where open seawater has intruded against the back levees all along Plaquemines."**

Rep. Melancon supported the creation of the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. CIAP authorizes \$250 million in grants annually, from 2007-2010, to be distributed to six outer continental shelf oil and gas producing states: Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, California, Mississippi and Texas. These grants are for coastal restoration and mitigation of the impacts of OCS oil and gas activities.

Louisiana has been allocated a total of \$368,123,048 in federal funds from CIAP. To date, the state and coastal parishes have received over \$98 million of that funding for coastal restoration and infrastructure projects.

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